

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/018) - Legal costs associated with 2014 Data Breach - Internal Product (DIBP)**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 66) asked:

Senator PRATT: What will the anticipated total costs be when all legal matters are resolved? What are the costs today?

Ms De Veau: I would have to take that on notice. When it is simply the making of a fresh decision taking into account different information, it would be hard to know whether any litigation costs that arrived thereafter are directly attributable to the matters specifically raised because of the data breach or simply a judicial review or AAT review of that decision.

Senator PRATT: A review of the decision because either the publishing of that information had an impact on the circumstances or there were other factors in relation to that.

Ms De Veau: I think I am anticipating that it may be difficult to go to that degree of detail and pull apart the various factors, but we will see what we can do.

Senator PRATT: Thank you.

*Answer:*

According to departmental records, as at 23 May 2017, the Department and Comcover had spent approximately \$955,330 (GST exclusive) in external legal services expenditure to manage legal matters where it is clear those matters arose because of the 2014 data breach.

Given the varying scope and nature of the legal matters that remain on foot, including any appeal right the parties involved will have available to them at the conclusion of those matters, the Department is unable to provide an estimate of the costs that may be incurred in finalising all matters related to the 2014 data breach.